

City of Las Vegas

AGENDA MEMO

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING DATE: OCTOBER 25, 2007

DEPARTMENT: PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ITEM DESCRIPTION: ABEYANCE - GPA-24236 - APPLICANT/OWNER: CITY OF LAS VEGAS

**** CONDITIONS ****

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: APPROVAL

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**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The request is to adopt the Transit Element, thereby incorporating it into the City of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan.

The Transit Element is intended to accomplish the following:

- To state goals, objectives and policies and influence planning and implementation of a multi-modal public transit system;
- To compile a comprehensive listing and description of transit providers and services available in the city;
- To describe the existing transit system components, routes, and amenities;
- To analyze short and long term goals and priorities for transit system enhancement, including ancillary facilities and amenities;
- To describe the city's role in facilitating public transit;
- To evaluate the effectiveness and potential benefit of land use tools in transit system planning;
- To identify strategies/actions to enhance the city's role in coordinating transit system planning and implementation with the Regional Transportation Commission and other governmental entities.

The preparation and adoption of the Transit Element is an important step in achieving the city's priority to "create, integrate, and manage orderly and sustainable development and growth of our community", as called for in the Strategic Plan.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by P&D, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
4/1/92	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas General Plan.
9/6/00	City Council adopted the city of Las Vegas Master Plan 2020 through ordinance #2000-62
10/11/07	Planning Commission held item in abeyance until October 25, 2007 meeting
<i>Neighborhood Meeting</i>	
9/10/07	Public meeting held at YMCA- Durango Hills Community Center
9/11/07	Public meeting held at Doolittle Community Center
9/12/07	Public meeting held at Mirabelli Community Center

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ANALYSIS

After experiencing a 73 percent increase in population during the 1990's, and having concerns about the negative impacts associated with rapid growth, the city embarked on a new two-phased Master Plan project. The Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, adopted in September 2000, represents Phase 1 of the Master Plan project, forming the framework for the contents of Phase II: a series of elements; special area plans; and long-term land use designations, including a revised future land use map. Transit is among the elements identified for completion during Phase II of the Master Plan project.

The discussion in this element focuses on: existing public transit conditions; an analysis of short and long-term plans for transit system improvements; and an analysis of land use tools having potential to help transform the current bus system into a viable component of a successful multi-modal transportation system. Other system components, such as urban trails and multi-use paths for bicycles and pedestrians, along with on-street bicycle lanes, are addressed within a separate document, the Transportation Trails Element of the Master Plan.

This element provides a baseline of detailed information that will aid in the decision-making processes that determine the city's funding priorities with respect to transit. The Transit Element links the broad policies of the Master Plan with capital improvement programming, and will assist city decision makers and relevant agencies vested with developing and operating public transit infrastructure and services.

FINDINGS

The Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) are the current codified laws of the State of Nevada. The Statutes of Nevada are a compilation of all legislation passed by the Nevada Legislature during a particular Legislative Session. The proposed Transit Element conforms to the following Nevada Revised Statute:

NRS 278.160, "Subject matter of master plan," requires that the city of Las Vegas prepare and adopt a comprehensive, long-term general plan for the physical development of the city. This document, known as the city of Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, must also include a Transit Plan, showing "a proposed multimodal system of transit lines, including mass transit, streetcar, motor-coach and trolley coach lines, paths for bicycles and pedestrians, and related facilities."

- A proposed multimodal system of transit lines, including mass transit, streetcar, motor-coach and trolley lines, paths for bicycles and pedestrians, and related facilities.

GOAL 1: The Downtown area will emerge as the preeminent hub of business, residential, government, tourism, and gaming activities in the City of Las Vegas and as a major hub of such activities in the Las Vegas Valley.

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OBJECTIVE 1.6: To provide high quality transit service including integrated bus and rapid transit, which serves the Downtown and which connects the Downtown with other employment, entertainment, and shopping nodes within the Valley.

POLICY 1.6.1: That the City cooperate with the Regional Transportation Commission, other Valley entities, other levels of government and private sector investors to develop fixed guideway transit systems.

POLICY 1.6.2: That the phasing of any guideway route be prioritized to connect the Downtown and the Strip, and subsequently to connect Downtown to the McCarran International Airport, Northwest Town center and Summerlin areas.

POLICY 1.6.3: That the City support efforts to develop a maglev train system between Downtown Las Vegas and Southern California, connecting points in between to the extent feasible.

GOAL 3: Newly developing areas of the city will contain adequate educational facilities and recreational and open space and be linked to major employment centers by mass transit, including buses, and by trails.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: To ensure that new residential subdivisions, with the exception of areas currently designated as rural preservation neighborhoods by Nevada Statute, are developed into walkable communities, where reliance on auto trips for convenience shopping and access to education and recreation is minimized, and where development densities support transit.

POLICY 3.1.2: That new residential neighborhoods emphasize pedestrian linkages within the neighborhood, ready access to transit routes, linkages to schools, integration of local service commercial activities within a neighborhood center that is within walking distance of homes in the neighborhood.

OBJECTIVE 3.4: To ensure that adequate portions of the lands released for urban development by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are developed for recreational and educational public facilities, transit facilities and fire stations, that will benefit the city.

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OBJECTIVE 3.6: To ensure that adequate amounts of park space and trail systems are designated and developed to meet or exceed national standards and standards established in the Master Plan Parks Element.

POLICY 3.6.7: That the City encourages the development of parks that link with and take advantage of trail and pedestrian/bike traffic plans.

As proposed, the Transit Element meets the requirements set forth in the NRS with respect to showing a plan for a proposed multi-modal system of transit lines. Bicycles and pedestrian facilities are addressed in the Transportation Trails and Recreation Trails Elements.

Relationship to Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan:

The Master Plan, adopted by the City Council on September 6, 2000, contains numerous goals, objectives, and policies pertaining directly and indirectly to public transit. In addition, various elements and plans subsequently adopted as part of Phase II of the 2020 Master Plan, such as the Conservation, Historical Preservation, Housing, Parks, Safety, Transportation Trails Elements; and the Centennial Hills Sector and Downtown Centennial Plans, contain numerous action and program recommendations related to transit.

As a component of the Master Plan, the Transit Element is intended to not only satisfy NRS requirements, but also to provide a comprehensive document that will assist with the long range planning efforts of future public transit system improvements and expansion to meet the needs of the city as it continues to grow. This element provides a baseline of detailed information that will aid in the decision-making processes that determine the city's funding priorities with respect to transit. The Transit Element links the broad policies of the Master Plan with capital improvement programming, and will assist city decision makers and relevant agencies vested with developing and operating public transit infrastructure and services.

The proposed Transit Element conforms to other applicable adopted neighborhood plans and the following Master Plan policy sections:

Neighborhood Revitalization

GOAL 2: Mature neighborhoods will be sustained and improved through appropriate and selective high quality redevelopment and preservation.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: To focus residential reinvestment on transitional sites within the central city area at densities that support mass transit usage.

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POLICY 2.1.3: That urban hub at the intersections of primary roads, containing a mix of residential, commercial and office uses are supported.

Regional Coordination

GOAL 7: Issues of regional significance, requiring the City of Las Vegas to coordinate with other government entities and agencies within the Valley, will be addressed in a timely fashion.

OBJECTIVE 7.3: To ensure that public safety problems are fully and adequately identified and that long term solutions are identified and implemented by the respective local government departments and agencies vested with those responsibilities.

POLICY 7.3.5: That the City work with the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission, the Nevada Department of Transportation and local governments in the Las Vegas Valley to ensure that the roadway network is planned and developed to meet the needs of the anticipated population growth in the Valley, and provides for multi-modal transportation opportunities.

POLICY 7.3.6: That the City, in conjunction with the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission and local governments in the Las Vegas Valley, work to achieve a shift towards greater reliance on mass transit for home-to-work trips and to make transit usage a more attractive daily travel alternative. In particular, that the affected parties pursue options for a fixed guideway system where appropriate.

POLICY 7.3.7: That the City work together with the Clark County Regional Transportation Commission to identify the amount and location of lands required to address transit needs, and to acquire such lands from the federal Bureau of Land Management where appropriate.

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NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED 0

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT N/A

SENATE DISTRICT N/A

NOTICES MAILED Notices of neighborhood meetings published in the Las Vegas Review
Journal 08/31/07; 09/05/07; 09/10/07

APPROVALS 0

PROTESTS 0